

Application No. 09/779,869
Amendment "C" and RCE dated October 26, 2005
Reply to Office Action mailed September 21, 2005

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) In a system having a set top box receiving digital programming content comprised of multiple channels, and wherein the programming content of each channel is provided to the set top box in an encoded digital format determined by the provider of the content, a method for recording one or more selected channels without decoding them prior to recording so as to store them in the same encoded digital format as determined by the content provider in order not to degrade the recording quality of the selected channels, and thereby also permitting display of one of the recorded channels while recording another one of the selected channels, the method comprising the acts of:

receiving at the set top box digital programming content which is comprised of any or any combination of satellite transmissions, cable television transmissions, local television transmissions, radio transmissions, Internet data, MPEG video or audio, video streams, or audio streams, or any combination of satellite transmissions, cable television transmissions, local television transmissions, radio transmissions, Internet data, video streams, or audio streams with MPEG video or audio, and wherein the digital programming content is encoded in a digital format that is determined by a content provider and wherein the digital format of at least one channel is other than MPEG;

isolating and thereby selecting the at least one channel from the multiple channels of the programming content with a tuner, demodulator and transport demultiplexer of the set top box receiver, wherein the multiple channels have content encoded in a plurality of digital formats;

sending digital content of the at least one channel from the transport demultiplexer to a storage medium and storing the digital content of the at least one channel on a storage medium without decoding it so as to store it using the same digital format with which the at least one channel was received at the set top box in order to

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store the digital content of the at least one channel without degrading it, wherein the transport demultiplexer can send digital content in the plurality of digital formats;

retrieving digital content of a second channel from the storage medium that has previously been stored prior to decoding;

decoding the digital content of the second channel into an analog format for display at a display device while storing the digital content of the at least one channel on the storage medium; and

displaying the decoded analog format of the content of the second channel on the display device.

2-9. (Cancelled).

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10. (Currently Amended) In a system having a set top box receiving digital programming content comprised of multiple channels, and wherein the programming content of each channel is provided to the set top box in an encoded digital format determined by the provider of the content, a method for recording one or more selected channels without decoding them prior to recording so as to store them in the same encoded digital format as determined by the content provider in order not to degrade the recording quality of the selected channels, the method comprising the acts of:

tuning and demodulating the digital programming content to identify multiple channels contained by the programming content, and wherein the content of each channel is encoded in a digital format that is determined by a content provider, and wherein the digital format of at least one channel is other than MPEG;

demultiplexing the multiple channels of the transport stream with a transport demultiplexer in order to select the at least one channel, wherein the transport demultiplexer is equipped to select a channel encoded in any of a plurality of digital formats; and

recording on a storage medium the at least one channel without decoding it so as to store it using the same digital format with which the at least one channel was received at the set top box in order to store the digital content of the at least one channel without degrading it, wherein recording on a storage medium includes sending the digital content of the at least one channel from the transport demultiplexer to the storage medium.

11. (Cancelled).

12. (Previously Presented) A method as defined in claim 10, wherein the at least one channel is compressed.

13. (Previously Presented) A method as defined in claim 10, wherein the act of recording the at least one channel further comprises the act of simultaneously displaying the at least one channel on a display device.

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14. (Previously Presented) A method as defined in claim 13, wherein the act of displaying the at least one channel further comprises the act of decoding the at least one channel with a decoder, wherein the decoder produces video output and audio outputs.

15. (Previously Presented) A method as defined in claim 10, further comprising the acts of:

decoding a second channel already recorded on the storage medium while the at least one channel is recording on the storage medium; and
displaying the second channel.

16. (Canceled).

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17. (Currently Amended) In a system having a set top box receiving digital programming content comprised of multiple channels, and wherein the programming content of each channel is provided to the set top box in an encoded digital format determined by the provider of the content, an apparatus for recording one or more selected channels without decoding them prior to recording so as to store them in the same encoded digital format as determined by the content provider in order not to degrade the recording quality of the selected channels, the apparatus comprising:

tuner and a demodulator adapted for receiving and operating on the digital programming content to identify multiple channels contained by the programming content, and wherein the content of each channel is encoded in a digital format that is determined by a content provider and wherein the digital format of at least one channel is other than MPEG;

a transport coupled to the output of the demodulator and adapted to demultiplex the multiple channels of the transport stream in order to permit selection of the at least one channel, the transport being capable of selecting a channel encoded in a plurality of digital formats; and

a storage device coupled to the transport for recording the at least one channel without decoding it so as to store it using the same digital format with which the at least one channel was received at the set top box in order to store the digital content of the at least one channel without degrading it, wherein storage device can receive content encoded in any of the plurality of digital formats from the transporter.

18. (Cancelled).

19. (Previously Presented) An apparatus as defined in claim 17, further comprising a decoder that is connected to the storage medium such that a previously recorded channel may be decoded and displayed on a display device while the at least one selected channel is recorded on the storage medium.

20. (Previously Presented) An apparatus as defined in claim 19, wherein the decoder is also coupled to the transport so that a selected channel output from the transponder may be

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simultaneously directed to both the storage medium for recording and to the decoder for display of the selected channel as it is recorded.

21. (Previously Presented) An apparatus as defined in claim 17, further comprising a conditional access system for determining whether a selected channel may be displayed.